(b) if so, the total cost likely to be incurred for construction of the airport; and

(c) the steps taken to construct the proposed airport at Greater Noida?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tourist flights

2960. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is operating tourist flights connecting different places of tourism in a particular zone of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the places connected in a particular zone;

(c) whether any such programme is contemplated for the North-Eastern region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) National Aviation Company of India Limited currently connects 60 cities which includes tourist stations like Aurangabad, Bagdogra, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Goa, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Leh, Jaipur, Jammu, Khajuraho, Kullu, Madurai, Port Blair, Shillong, Srinagar, Tirupati, Udaipur and Varanasi etc. covering the length and breadth of the country with direct air service, linking 146 city pairs, including 11 cities within the North-Eastern Region.

Tests of male cabin crew members

2961. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 92 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 2008 and state:

(a) whether male cabin crew members are also put through similar tests;

(b) whether all cabin crew members have equal standards of testing; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) In erstwhile Air India, therer is no medical test for male cabin crew because the retirement age of male cabin crew has always been 58 years. Medical check was not part of the terms and conditions of employment of male cabin crew. On the other hand, the retirement age of female cabin crew, which was originally 30 years, has been extended from time to time and finally has been brought at par with the male cabin crew (58 years). However, the extension of retirement age for female cabin crew was implemented, subject to medical check. Both male and female cabin crew, however, undergo annual weight checks.

In erstwhile Indian Airlines, as per their Service Regulations, the cabin crew, both male and female, is subjected to medical examination once a year after attaining the age of 35 years.